(a) whether Government is aware that the growth of big companies in the information technology sector is 40 per cent whereas the growth of small companies in this sector is only 20 per cent;

(b) if so, the reasons behind the difference between the growth rate of big and small companies in the industry; and

(c) the basis on which big and small companies have been categorized?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) As per National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM), the larger companies have reported relatively higher growth rates compared to smaller companies in Financial Year 2007. There could be several reasons for this, which include: their ability to bid for larger deals (which smaller companies are often not qualified to bid for).

As per Software Technology Parks of India (STPI), the growth of big companies is higher based on their export performance in the recent years. The reasons for higher growth rate of big companies include: Brand Value, diversified expertise, capability to serve client across the globe in different geography. On the other hand small companies in the IT industry are addressing only niche markets/expertise, and are able to serve only to particular geography, which also result in limited growth.

As per the Electronics and Computer Software Export Promotion Council (ESC), the turnover of companies in general is taken as criteria for the categorization.

**Telephone Advisory Committee of Madhubani, Bihar**

†1800. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), Bihar Division is incurring losses to the tune of lacs of rupees on account of telephone bills exceeding the fixed limits raised against the Members of the Telephone Advisory Committee of District Madhubani, Bihar;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the number of members of the Telephone Advisory Committee has exceeded its fixed number; and

(c) if so, the full details in this regard, year-wise, since the year 2004?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Sir, calls beyond the permissible free call limit are to be paid by the individual TAC member. As such no loss is caused on account of calls made exceeding the fixed free call limit. However, Rs. 1,47,624/- is outstanding against the TAC members as on 31.10.2007.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) As per existing guidelines, maximum strength of members in a TAC is 20. However, Hon'ble Minister of Communications and Information Technology (MOC&IT) is having discretion to increase/decrease the strength of the TAC.

(c) (i) Any (TAC) is constituted for two years.

(ii) There was no TAC of Madhubani Telecom district during 2004-05.

(iii) The existing Madhubani TAC was formed *vide* Department of Telecommunications Memo No. 8-351/2004-PHP dated 18.01.2006 with a tenure up to 31.01.2008.

(iv) The number of TAC members of existing Madhubani TAC is more than twenty.

**Spectrum allocation and its surveillance**

1801. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is sharp increase in the subscribers base of mobile telephone;

(b) if so, the details including the number of subscribers for the last five years and revenue from mobile services year-wise, State-wise and category-wise;

(c) if so, whether there is any scarcity of wireless spectrum;

(d) if so, the details of consistent policy, if any, for allocating spectrum; and

(e) if so, the step taken in detail, if any, to implement the report of Telecom Regulatory authority of India spectrum allocation and its surveillance as on today?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir. The subscriber base of mobile telephone has been increased from 13.29 million as on 31.03.2003 to 217.13 million as on 31.10.2007.

(b) The details of the number of subscribers for the last five years, State/Circle-wise are given in Statement-I (*See* below). The revenue of telecom sector for the last five years and year-wise, State-wise revenue from mobile services for the last three years are given in Statement-II (See below).

(c) to (e) The Radio frequency spectrum is a natural, limited and scarce resource. The initial spectrum for mobile services is allotted subject to its availability in the service area, in accordance with the relevant provisions of their respective Service License Agreement. With the growth of service and increased subscriber base, additional spectrum is also earmarked subject to its availability as per the subscriber based criteria and justification. In order to ensure optimal and efficient use of allotted spectrum, necessary criteria for allotment of additional spectrum, beyond the initial allotment, have been worked out, keeping in view various aspects, including demographic features of the respective service areas as well as recommendations of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) etc. in this regard.